

## **Mortimer, Adam (MAG)**

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**From:** Letang, Chris (SOLGEN)  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 13, 2022 9:30 PM  
**To:** DiTommaso, Mario (SOLGEN)  
**Cc:** Unfried, Christa (SOLGEN); Abdi, Fuad (MCM)  
**Subject:** Strategic Update - 2022 02 13

### **STRATEGIC UPDATES FOR DEPUTY SOLICITOR GENERAL**

*The information in this report is current to 2022-02-13 at 2000 hours.*

#### **Opposition to Public Health Measures**

No significant updates to report.

#### **ASSESSMENT**

**Currently, there is no specific, identified threat and monitoring remains attuned to where ideologically motivated extremism may manifest among participants in or supporters of opposition activities.**

#### **Theft of Weapons (Peterborough)**

##### ***Police Reporting***

Police reporting indicates that on 2022-02-13 at 0300 hours, a tractor-trailer carrying a load of firearms was stolen from 437 Parkhill Road East in Peterborough. The weapons are described as 3,409 .22 calibre long guns and 6,468 magazines. No ammunition was in the load. **There is no information at this time to suggest that the reported theft is in any way connected to the convoy protests. It is noted here only for situational awareness, and in light of the fact that media and social media has reported the theft, in some instances suggestive of a convoy link. Any relevant updates will be provided as they become available.**

#### **Freedom Convoy 2022**

##### **Ottawa Demonstrations**

##### ***Police Reporting***

The Ottawa Police Service (OPS) reports approximately 50-75 protestors currently in attendance at Parliament Hill, a decrease from an estimated 1000 in the area this afternoon.

A counter protest occurred in downtown Ottawa this afternoon at Metcalfe and Elgin Street where protestors surrounded convoy vehicles.

A counter protest occurred at the intersection of Riverside and Bank Street today, with approximately 1000 counter protestors blocking the intersection to prevent entry of convoy vehicles to the downtown core.

The OPS has reported that a Canadian Tire store located near the Coventry site has reported selling an unusual quantity of bear spray over the past two days. The OPS is investigating.

The OPS identified an online video in which a driver at the blockade had made inflammatory statements referencing violence, such as using a truck as a weapon. OPS continues to investigate.

### ***Open Source Reporting***

Media reporting indicates that the City of Ottawa has reached an agreement with protest leaders for vehicles to leave residential streets and confine their activities to the Parliament Hill area. Ottawa Mayor Jim Watson has reportedly offered to meet with protestors to discuss their concerns, provided that all trucks are removed from residential areas south of Wellington Street and from all other residential areas including the market and the site at Coventry. Protestors must also agree to not backfill residential areas that are currently occupied by protestors, or their vehicles, and agree to not relocate vehicles or demonstrators to other residential neighbourhoods in Ottawa. The mayor has requested that the protest perimeter be limited to Wellington Street between Elgin Street and the Sir John A. MacDonald Parkway. Indicators of these conditions being met are expected by noon tomorrow (February 14, 2022). The spokeswoman for the Freedom Convoy has indicated she is working to gain buy-in from drivers.

The fundraiser on GiveSendGo continues to receive donations; it has raised almost \$9.3M USD, and a Bitcoin wallet for the blockade contains over \$1.2M CAD. The ADOPT A TRUCKER account on GiveSendGo has raised almost \$583,340 USD. The funds are now effectively frozen as a result of the court order as financial institutions are prohibited from dealing with the GiveSendGo funds. GiveSendGo has publicly indicated their intent not to comply with the order and deny the Ontario courts jurisdiction over their fund.

Media reporting indicates that the TD Bank plans to hand over the \$1M in funds previously released by GoFundMe for the blockade to the Ontario courts, along with approximately \$400,000 in direct donations, for distribution or return to donors.

### **Toronto Demonstrations**

#### ***Police Reporting***

Four protestors remain on the South Lawn of Queen's Park.

Out of an abundance of caution, Queen's Park Circle and Hospital Row (University Avenue) remain closed to vehicle traffic. All other road closures have been reopened.

- TPS has no intelligence to indicate protests are planned in the downtown core tomorrow.

### **Ports of Entry - Windsor**

#### ***Police Reporting***

Enforcement action to remove protestors blockading the Ambassador Bridge commenced yesterday morning. A total of 32 individuals have since been arrested and 37 vehicles towed as a result of the enforcement action. Cement barriers are being placed on Huron Church to maintain cleared areas.

Travel to USA remains closed and police are securing and maintaining the area. Travel to Canada also remains closed. Plans are being finalized to reopen the bridge.

On February 12, 2022, an anonymous caller advised police of the possible presence of an explosive device in the area of Huron Church and College. A police and police K9 sweep of the area yielded negative results.

### **Ports of Entry – Niagara / Peace Bridge**

#### ***Police Reporting***

OPP are monitoring 35 vehicles at the Gateway at Grimsby. No commercial vehicles were observed. Approximately 30 people and 4 identified protest vehicles were spotted in Fort Erie near the Peace Bridge. No concerns thus far as protestors were cooperative.

### **Ports of Entry – Cornwall**

#### ***Police Reporting***

No protestors were reported in the area and there were no significant issues to report.

### **Ports of Entry - Nipigon**

#### ***Police Reporting***

OPP reporting has identified a potential blockade at the Nipigon River Bridge scheduled for February 26, 2022.

### **Ports of Entry – Sarnia**

#### ***Police Reporting***

OPP reporting indicates that traffic is moving normally at the Blue Water Bridge. Highway 402 WB remains closed between Nauvoo Road and Oil Heritage Road.

MTO Enforcement has additional officers working and offered their services in addition to patrolling highways and monitoring convoys.

### **Other Potential Activity**

OPP reporting indicates that a group of people have travelled to possibly block the border at Pigeon River, and appear to be camping on site. Their intention is unclear.

#### ***Open Source Reporting***

Social media information indicates that farmers from the Thunder Bay area intend to block bridges and border crossings with 1000 tractors. The message also claims that they are going to a border crossing with 5000 vehicles, including commercial motor vehicles. The border point is not named: it is possible that Pigeon River is the destination.

Local convoy actions are anticipated in other jurisdictions across the province, please see the updated event schedule for additional information.

Social media information has called for peaceful protests in other jurisdictions that have provided police personnel to Ottawa.

Media reporting indicates that commercial truck drivers in the US are planning to begin their own convoys.

## **ASSESSMENT**

Police reporting for several days has indicated that the attitude toward police at the Ottawa blockade has become more adversarial and confrontational. The available reporting indicates a growing number of counter protests, including incidents where convoys are physically blocked by individuals or small groups. Such counter protests are likely to continue. These counter protests could increase the threat of conflict at protest sites, and raise the possibility of injury to individuals who place themselves in the way of vehicles.

It is highly likely that protests will continue for the foreseeable future across the province, and that tactics will be adapted in response to enforcement actions. Protests may be organized in a given area while police resources are diverted to another. It is also possible that some individuals or entities may escalate to acts of mischief against critical infrastructure or other strategic targets in the long term.

The situation in Ontario remains volatile and represents a public safety threat and an officer safety threat. The potential for conflict or an act of violence is likely increasing as the Ottawa blockade continues. The potential for conflict has not decreased with the enforcement action in Windsor. The possibility of an act of mischief against strategic targets should not be discounted.

Protest organizers are attributing the lifting of restrictions in some provinces to their protests. This perceived success will likely result in a hardened resolve amongst the protestors and their supporters. Additionally, organizers have stated an intent to hold blockades in provinces that have not dropped COVID-19 related mandates; it is almost certain that this will occur.

At this juncture, there is no concrete, specific, or credible threat with regard to the Freedom Convoy protest and Operation BearHug 2.0 activity. However, the possibility that a lone actor or group of individuals could enact a physical threat with little or no warning cannot be excluded.

## **EVENT SCHEDULE**

*February 13, 2022*

### **Fort Frances Convoy**

Fort Frances Canada/ U.S. border crossing

Members of the group will protest in one lane of a two lane roadway. It will not impact the flow of traffic.

### **Freedom Convoy (Sault Freedom Alliance)**

St. Joe's Island Algoma District

Meet at Clarks Cove for 2pm and Convoy starts at 3pm.

### **Hanover-Walkerton: Freedom Convoy**

Every night will be completing a loop from Hanover Walmart

No significant impact anticipated

*February 14, 2022*

**Midhurst**

Simcoe County District School Board

Scheduled from 1000-1330 hours.

*Saturday February 26, 2022*

**Nipigon Bridge**

Protest was scheduled for 13 February has been rescheduled for February 26, 2022

*U/K Date*

**Thunder Bay**

Canada Unity – Operation Bearhug Canada

Strategic Border crossing disruptions. Plans unconfirmed.

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